

North Carolina Weather & Crops Report

Released March 30, 2015



CROP SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2015

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELD WORK

This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
3.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

	VS	ST	A	SS
Topsoil Moisture	0	1	45	54
Subsoil Moisture	0	1	56	43

VS= Very Short ST = Short A = Adequate SS = Surplus

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
Insufficient data to publish.				

VP = Very Poor P = Poor F = Fair G = Good EX = Excellent

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

	VP	P	F	G	EX
Barley	1	4	22	69	4
Oats	6	11	45	32	6
Pasture	8	23	42	26	1
Wheat	2	12	37	41	8

VP = Very Poor P = Poor F = Fair G = Good EX = Excellent

The break in the weather with less rain and warmer temperatures have help the small grain crop and it is off to a good start. Most growers had the chance to get their nitrogen application on small grains and it has the potential to make a good crop. Most cool season pastures have been fertilized and are starting to grow, but hay is still in short supply. The strawberry crop has survived the late February cold temperatures with little damage and has the potential to make a good crop.

Daniel Overcash – Agronomist Region 11

Soils are very wet, so little field work is being done. Tobacco greenhouses are planted and growing, with some early plantings affected by the cold weather. Farmers are applying nitrogen to wheat and pastures. Pastures are greening up, but there has not been much forage growth yet. Pastures should improve quickly with warmer temperatures.

Paul Westfall – Granville County Extension

Too wet for field work, farmers are anxious to begin burn down programs to their corn crop and ridge tobacco land. Wheat crop is not looking good. Need some sunlight for tobacco greenhouse plants to germinate. All in all, folks are ready for spring weather.

Cathy Herring – Central Crops Research Station

March has continued to be wet and cold. Field work has been limited in March up until the last couple of weeks of the month. Winter wheat top dressing has been challenging, and some of the crop still has not been fertilized due to wet field conditions. Tobacco greenhouses look good at this point, and plants should be ready.

Colby Lambert – Agronomist Region 9

Frosts over the weekend have stunted wheat and pasture growth that had begun with the warmer weather. Hay supplies in the area have dipped to a record low and many are thankful that the grass had started growing again. Sporadic rains, cloudy days, low temperatures and rain logged fields have farmers trying to spray wheat and fertilize when they can.

Jessica Morgan – Anson County Extension

Slow rains are helping with the rainfall deficit. Tobacco plants are growing well in greenhouses. Typical spring weather has arrived with 60's - 70's one day and snow the next

Julia Houck – Ashe / Alleghany Counties

Weather conditions for the month of March were relatively mild following a cold and wet February. Temperatures for the month were highly variable with an average high near 60(max 72 and average low around 37(min 19). Around 2.5" of precipitation fell during the month. Main farm activities for the month were tending livestock, field preparations for the coming production season, and seeding greenhouses for various crops. Pastures greening up is a welcome sight for livestock producers as hay supplies are getting short.

Stanley Holloway – Yancey County Extension

Strawberry and peach growers are concerned about the extent of damage caused by this past weekend extreme cold weather. Farmers have been very busy tilling land in preparation for planting season. Wet fields are still causing problems in some areas. Wheat, Barley, and Oat fields on which Nitrogen applications were made are turning around and looking much better. The warmer weather in March has drastically improved pasture growth and animal performance.

Brian Parrish – Harnett County Extension

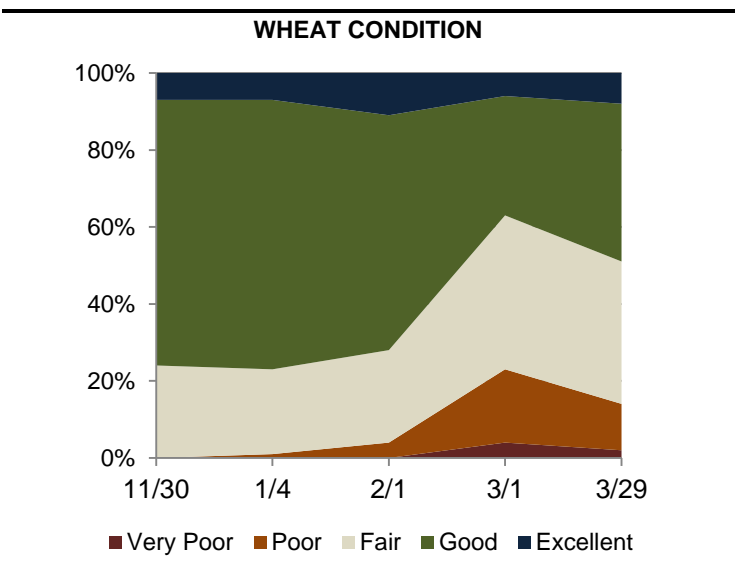
Tobacco growers are fumigating tobacco land, but wet conditions have it later than normal and is causing many growers to skip areas in field that are still too wet. Tobacco greenhouses look to be good with few big problems.

Don Nicholson - Agronomist Region 7

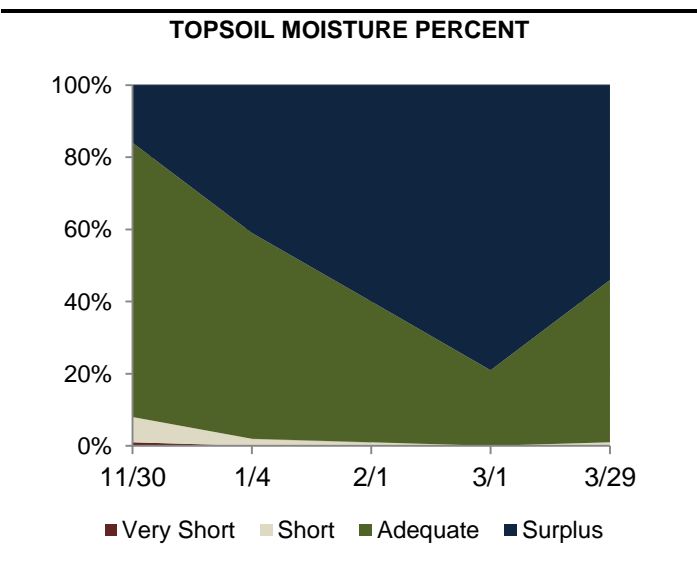
Frequent rainfall keeps delaying planting of Irish potatoes, and cabbage as well as topdressing of nitrogen of wheat as well as land preparation for corn planting. Farmers are taking advantage of the times the land is dry enough to do field work.

Al Wood – Pasquotank County Extension

WHEAT CONDITION



TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT



WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2015

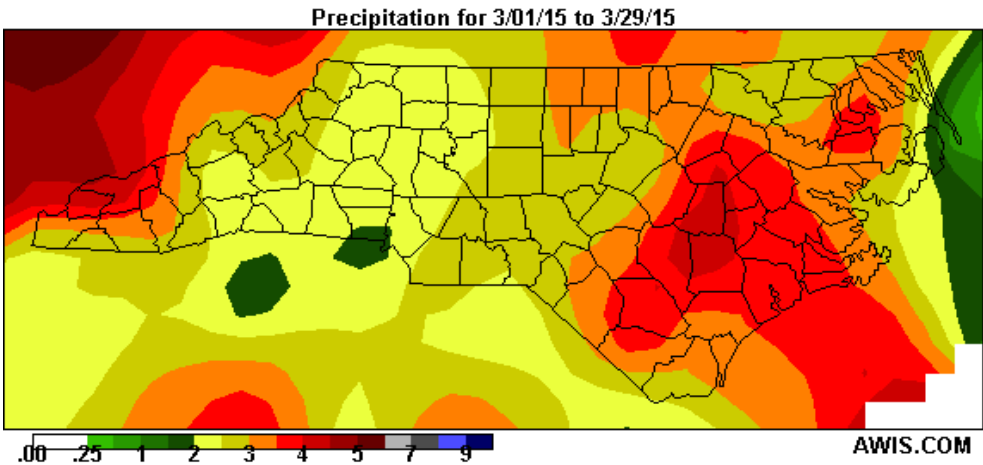
Location	Precipitation (Inches) ¹				Temperature (Degrees F.)				
	This Month		Year To Date		This Month				Degree Days (YTD) *
	Total	Departure from Normal	Total	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Avg.	Departure from Normal	
Asheboro	3.25	-0.76	8.69	-3.46	80	21	51	0	
Asheville	1.89	-2.43	7.73	-4.48	78	19	51	5	
Burlington	3.11	-0.87	7.75	-3.46	83	18	51	2	
Charlotte	1.93	-2.22	7.75	-3.95	84	23	54	2	
Clayton	4.25	0.20	13.60	1.80	82	19	50	-1	
Clinton	4.56	0.32	12.55	0.75	82	22	52	-1	
Dunn	3.81	-0.50	14.84	2.75	83	22	53	3	
Elizabeth City	3.30	-1.11	10.36	-1.73	81	20	49	-2	
Fayetteville	2.62	-1.50	10.27	-1.44	86	22	55	4	
Gastonia-Gaston	1.56	-2.46	6.30	-5.68	85	23	54	4	
Goldsboro	4.72	0.50	13.08	0.71	84	22	54	1	
Greensboro	2.68	-0.93	7.31	-2.94	82	20	51	3	
Greenville	3.83	0.00	12.83	1.12	83	21	52	2	
Hickory	2.51	-2.12	6.96	-5.77	80	21	52	3	
Jefferson	2.30	-2.03	5.88	-6.20	75	11	44	4	
Kinston	3.42	-0.58	12.95	1.09	85	20	52	1	
Maxton	2.76	-1.45	11.49	-0.62	85	23	55	3	
Mount Airy	2.73	-1.43	7.26	-4.26	80	17	47	2	
New Bern	4.00	-0.23	12.83	0.03	86	22	55	3	
North Wilkesboro	2.72	-1.83	7.94	-4.96	79	19	49	4	
Oxford	3.48	-0.65	9.26	-2.35	77	18	48	-1	
Raeford	3.27	-0.94	12.85	0.74	83	23	53	0	
Raleigh-Durham	3.12	-0.69	9.36	-1.94	82	20	51	1	
Reidsville	3.01	-1.14	7.83	-3.97	80	18	46	-2	
Roanoke Rapids	4.10	0.15	10.57	-0.82	78	19	47	-1	
Robbinsville	5.01	-1.55	13.37	-6.45	77	17	49	3	
Roxboro	3.73	-0.39	9.03	-2.78	80	18	47	0	
Statesville	2.92	-1.27	7.78	-3.79	81	18	48	-3	
Tarboro	3.85	-0.11	10.77	-0.99	82	21	50	2	
Vale	2.57	-1.99	8.36	-4.29	81	19	50	-2	
Wallace	3.88	-0.30	13.61	1.41	85	22	53	-3	
Washington	3.54	-0.54	11.52	-0.26	83	21	50	-2	
Waynesville	3.21	-1.73	11.78	-2.32	74	15	48	4	
Whiteville	4.58	0.34	11.56	-0.46	85	24	54	0	
Williamston	4.14	0.06	12.87	1.09	81	22	51	-2	
Willimnton	3.43	-0.55	12.75	0.59	84	25	57	3	
Wilson	4.61	0.46	14.62	2.74	83	21	51	2	
Winston Salem	2.29	-1.32	6.12	-4.13	81	20	50	2	

¹ Precipitation data considered preliminary *Data not available.

PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

<http://www.awis.com/>

Map depicts accumulations through dates listed. This product is made possible by AWIS Weather Services, Inc.



US DROUGHT MONITOR OF NORTH CAROLINA

<http://www.ncdrought.org/>

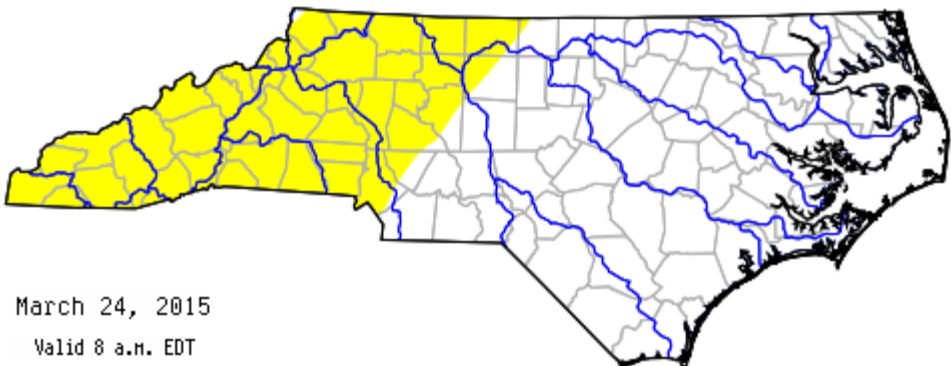
The US drought monitor focuses on broad scale conditions. Information provided for North Carolina is relative to information provided from all other states and the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council. Local conditions may vary.

Drought Classifications

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

March 24, 2015

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



County Boundaries Major River Basins ([View Map](#))
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)